

**REMARKS**

Claims 20-40 were pending. Claims 20, 22, 28, 31, 38 and 39 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 20-40 remain pending subsequent this amendment.

In the present Office Action, claims 20-22 and 38-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant submits the amended claims overcome these rejections. For example, the recitations concerning a “normal” e-mail message have been removed. In addition, the nature of the predetermined type has been clarified. Finally, the recitations concerning a “brief manner” and “extended manner” have been replaced.

In addition to the above, claims 20-24, 29, 31-34 and 37-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Noguchi, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,163,345 (hereinafter “Noguchi”), in view of newly cited Cleron, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,223,213 (hereinafter “Cleron”). Claims 25-26, 30, 35-36 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Noguchi and Cleron, in view of well known art. Applicant respectfully submits each of claims 20-40 recite features neither taught nor suggested by the cited art.

For example, claim 20 recites a method which includes, in part,

“receiving an e-mail message created by an original sender and addressed to a user; determining whether said received message includes an indication that said message corresponds to a predetermined e-mail message type, said predetermined message type being created by said sender to include a main message and one or more user selectable option indicators, each of said indicators including: a first text which describes a corresponding option; and a second text which further describes the

corresponding option, said second text being displayed in response to a user selecting the corresponding option; in response to determining said message does correspond to said predetermined type: formatting and presenting said message according to a first format, wherein said first format includes the display of the main message and a first text corresponding to each of said one or more options; presenting a second text corresponding to a first option of said one or more options in response to detecting said first option is selected; and determining whether a reply message identifying the first selected option is to be transmitted to the sender.”

Applicant submits that at least the above highlighted features are neither taught nor suggested by the cited art. In contrast to the above, Noguchi merely teaches (e.g., Fig. 12D and related text) a user interface which may provide access to electronic messages. For example, Noguchi teaches:

“The system menu provides the user access to electronic mail messages through the messages box 1251. The mail icon informs the user that he has unread mail. In response to selection of the messages box 1251, the system provides a list of the user messages as shown in FIG. 12D. Upon selection of a message to read, the box displays the message as shown in FIG. 12E.” (Noguchi, col. 8, line 67 – col. 9, line 6).

In paragraph 11 of the present Office Action, the examiner rejected claim 20 and interpreted Noguchi as teaching determining whether a received e-mail message corresponds to a predetermined type. In support of this rejection, the examiner relied on a particular interpretation of predetermined type as described in paragraph 7 of the present Office Action. Applicant submits the clarifications concerning the nature of the predetermined type of message as recited above overcome these rejections. For example, neither Noguchi, nor any of the cited art, teaches “said predetermined message type being

created by said sender to include a main message and one or more user selectable option indicators, each of said indicators including: a first text which describes a corresponding option; and a second text which further describes the corresponding option, said second text being displayed in response to a user selecting the corresponding option.”

Further, Cleron does not teach the above recited features. Cleron teaches a mechanism whereby a remote email server may provide web pages to a thin client in order to present an email program interface to the user. For example, Cleron teaches:

“The client 22 implements a hyperlink browser 30 to browse the Web and to use the email system. . . . The host mail server 24 implements a mail service 36 to facilitate the exchange of email messages with the remote mail servers 28 over the network 26. The mail service 36 has a mailbox for the client 22 that receives and holds email messages addressed to the client. The mail service 36 extends email functionality to the client 22 by creating pages that appear, when rendered by the client browser 30, as an interface to an email program. For instance, when the user first enters the email service, the initial page might contain a listing of email messages arranged chronologically according to their delivery date. If the user wishes to open one of the mail messages, the user clicks a button or hyperlink that causes the client to send a request to the mail service 36 at the host mail server 24. In response, the mail service 36 opens the requested mail message, constructs a new HTML page containing the contents of the mail message, and downloads the HTML page to the client 22. The user can then undertake other email functions, such as replying to a message or creating a new message, with each action resulting in the mail service 36 creating and downloading an HTML page with an appropriate image. Thus, to the user, the client appears to be running a local email program.” (Cleron, col. 3, lines 25-55).

“FIG. 5 shows an email page 110 rendered by the browser UI 32. The email page 110 is accessed and displayed by selecting an appropriate hypertext link on a home page. The email page 110 includes a logo 112, a workspace 114, and multiple links 116-122. The workspace 114 has a text area 124, with "From", "To", and "Subject" lines, and a "Send" button 126. The user can enter a new mail message using this screen. Link 116 is a hypertext link to a mail list that lists incoming mail messages chronologically. Link 118 is a hypertext link to a list of addresses that the user might wish to select an intended recipient. Links 120 and 122 are used to facilitate audio and video capture for inclusion of an audio or video clip in the email message. Actuation of link 120 brings up an audio capture panel that provides UI functions to enable a user to capture an audio stream input into the microphone. Actuation of link 122 brings up a video capture panel that provides UI functions to enable a user to capture a video stream from the video input or from the television signal.” (Cleron, col. 5, lines 15-35).

From the above teachings of Cleron we see that Cleron concerns the provision of email functionality to a thin client which does not have the resources to support an email application. Cleron also teaches capturing audio and video for email messages. Cleron accomplishes this by having the server generate web pages with hyperlinks to act as an email program user interface. Cleron teaches that the interface which has been created by the server may include links (e.g., in the form of buttons). However, Cleron does not teach or suggest a “predetermined message type being created by said sender to include a main message and one or more user selectable option indicators, each of said indicators including: a first text which describes a corresponding option; and a second text which further describes the corresponding option, said second text being displayed in response

to a user selecting the corresponding option” As is clear from the above recitation, claim 20 concerns messages created by an original sender according to the recited predetermined type.

In view of the above, Applicant submits none of the cited art, neither singly nor in combination, teaches all of the above recited features of claim 20. Accordingly, claim 20 is believed to be patentably distinguishable over the cited art. Similarly, because claims 31, 38 and 39 include limitations similar to those of claim 20, each of claims 31, 38 and 39 are believed patentable as well.

Because each of the dependent claims include the limitations of the independent claims upon which they depend, dependent claims 21-30, 32-37, and 40 are believed patentable for at least the above reasons. In addition to the above, Applicant submits the dependent claims include additional features neither taught nor suggested by the cited art.

For example, claim 22 as amended recites the additional feature “wherein said second text describes a corresponding option in greater detail than a first text which corresponds to the option.” Also, claim 28 recites “wherein in response to detecting said first option is selected, the method further comprises displaying a message to the user indicative of a single input from the user which will generate and send a reply message to the sender, said reply message including an identification of the first option and the user” which is nowhere taught or suggested by the cited art.

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested. Should the examiner disagree or have questions or comments, Applicant invites the examiner to telephone the below signed.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Conley, Rose, & Tayon, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5266-05600/RDR.

Respectfully submitted,

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4/24/09

Marked-Up Version of Amended Claims

20. (Amended) A method for responding to an e-mail message comprising:

receiving an e-mail message created by an original sender and addressed to a user;

determining whether said received message includes an indication that said message corresponds to a predetermined e-mail message type, said predetermined message type being created by said sender to include a main message and one or more user selectable option indicators, each of said indicators including:

a first text which describes a corresponding option; and  
a second text which further describes the corresponding option,  
said second text being displayed in response to a user  
selecting the corresponding option;

[in response to determining said message does not correspond to said predetermined type, presenting said message as a normal e-mail message;]

in response to determining said message does correspond to said predetermined type:

formatting and presenting said message according to a first format,  
wherein said first format includes the display of [a] the main  
message and a first text corresponding to each of said one or more  
options [at least one selectable option, said option being received  
in said received e-mail message];

presenting a second text corresponding to a first option of said one or more options [information related to the option] in response to detecting said first option is selected; and

determining whether a reply message identifying the first selected option is to be transmitted to the sender.

22. (Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said second text describes a corresponding option in greater detail than a first text which corresponds to the option [if said message does correspond to said predetermined type, said received message includes programming code corresponding to said option, wherein said code includes a short option configured to describe said option in a brief manner, and said code includes a long option configured to describe said option in an extended manner].
28. (Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein in response to detecting said first option is selected, the method further comprises displaying a message to the user indicative of a single input from the user which will generate and send a reply message to the sender, said reply message including an identification of the first option and the user. [the second option is selected by selecting a key on a remote control device, wherein the key corresponds to the second option.]
31. (Amended) A method for sending an e-mail message comprising:  
an original sender creating an e-mail message, said message being created by said sender to include[ing :] an indication that said e-mail message corresponds to a predetermined e-mail message type of a plurality of e-mail message types, said predetermined message



type including a main message and one or more recipient selectable option indicators, each of said indicators including:  
a first text which describes a corresponding option; and  
a second text which further describes the corresponding option, said second text being displayable in response to a user selecting the corresponding option;

[a main message;  
at least one selectable option;  
information related to the option, wherein the information is to be presented after the option has been presented and selected;  
and]

transmitting the e-mail message.

38. (Amended) A system for responding to an electronic message comprising:

a processor configured to:

detect a received e-mail message;  
determine whether said message includes an indication that said e-mail message corresponds to a predetermined e-mail message type, said predetermined message type being created by an original sender to include a main message and one or more recipient selectable option indicators, each of said indicators including:  
a first text which describes a corresponding option; and  
a second text which further describes the corresponding option, said second text being displayed in response to a user selecting the corresponding option;

[in response to determining said message does not correspond to said predetermined type, present said message as a normal e-mail message;]

in response to determining said message does correspond to said predetermined type:

format and present said message according to a first format, wherein said first format includes the display of the main message and a first text corresponding to each of said one or more options;

present a second text corresponding to a first option of said one or more options in response to detecting said first option is selected; and

[format and present said message according to a first format, wherein said first format includes a main message and at least one selectable option; present information related to the option in response to detecting said option is selected; and]

determine whether a reply message identifying the selected option is to be transmitted;

a memory coupled with the processor, wherein the memory is configured to provide instructions to the processor.

39. (Amended) A computer program product for responding to an electronic message, said product comprising a computer readable medium including program instructions executable to:
- detect a received e-mail message;
  - determine whether said message includes an indication that said e-mail message corresponds to a predetermined e-mail message type said predetermined message type being created by an original sender to include a main message and one or more recipient selectable option indicators, each of said indicators including:

a first text which describes a corresponding option; and  
a second text which further describes the corresponding  
option, said second text being displayed in response  
to a user selecting the corresponding option;

[in response to determining said message does not correspond to said  
predetermined type, present said message as a normal e-mail  
message;]

in response to determining said message does correspond to said  
predetermined type, said instructions are executable to:  
format and present said message according to a first format,  
wherein said first format includes the display of the main  
message and a first text corresponding to each of said one  
or more options;  
present a second text corresponding to a first option of said one or  
more options in response to detecting said first option is  
selected; and

[format and present said message according to a first format, wherein said  
first format includes a main message and at least one selectable  
option;

present information related to the option in response to detecting said  
option is selected; and]

determine whether a reply message identifying the selected option is to be  
transmitted.